(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have constituted a Committee to make India an attractive cruise tourist destination;

(c) what are the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(d) the details of ports identified for this purpose in the eastern parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.A High Power Steering Group has been constituted to formulate Cruise Shipping Policy for the country.

(c) The recommendations of this Steering Group include formation of Working Groups to look into issues like - Immigration; Customs Clearances; Quarantine Restrictions; Identification of Ports; Infrastructural Facilities; Connectivity; Taxation Issues; Tourism Related Issue and Cabotage to develop cruise shipping policy for India.

(d) A Working Group has been cosntituted by Department of Shipping for identification of Ports having cruise tourism potential along with East and West Coast of India.

FDI inflow into tourism sector

3535. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tourism industry has been declared as priority sector by Government for FDI flow into this sector;

(b) if so, when the industry was declared as priority sector by Government;

(c) the number of projects, after declaring tourism as priority sector, sanctioned by Government; and

(d) the total amount of FDI flown into this sector since declaration of this sector as priority sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) Government of India has identified Tourism as a high priority Industry for Investment. With a view to encouraging international entrepreneurs for investment, foreign direct investment (FDI) up to 100 per cent is permitted in the Hotel and Tourism sector under Automatic Approval Route.

Since the introduction of economic liberalisation in the country, the total amount of FDI inflow in tourism sector from August, 1991 to February, 2005 is Rs. 1,059.66 crores.

Develoment of tourism in Punjab

3536. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Punjab has submitted any special plan for development of tourism in the State to remove regional imbalance;

(b) if so, the salient features and estimated cost thereof;

(c) the Central Government aid sought therefor; and

(d) Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Tube-Wells in Rural Areas

+3537. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:
SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed an amount of rupees thirty thousand per case for erecting tube-wells in rural areas while average cost of boring a tube-well in Madhya Pradesh has been assessed to be fifty thousand due to hilly and plateau structure of surface;

(b) whether Central Government are considering to increase the present amount of assistance to fifty thousand; and

(c) if so, by when, Government would consider to provide the increased amount to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAYPRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Rural Drinking Water Supply is a State subject. The Central Government, however, provides financial assistance to the States to supplement their efforts in providing drinking water supply to the rural habitations through Centrally

†Ortginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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